

SUBJECT

Chief Executive - Sovereign - Eritrea.

DATE

8-11-30

CASE NUMBER

865A.001 M. I.

D. REPORTS

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MILITARY ATTACHE
American Embassy
ROME, ITALY

G-2 Report

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
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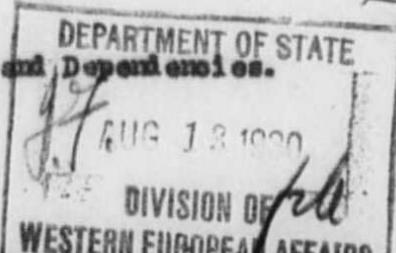
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WAR DEPARTMENT

N.E.
W.H.

ITALY (POLITICAL)

Subject : Relationship between Italy and Dependencies.
New Governor for Eritrea.



By a Royal Decree of July 12, 1930, Corrado Zoli was relieved from duty as Governor of Eritrea and Riccardo Astuto di Lucchesi, director general of the Ministry of the Colonies, was appointed to succeed him.

The new Governor of Eritrea, Riccardo Astuto has been a career man in the Ministry of the Colonies since its foundation in 1912. He served in Tripolitania with Governor Garibaldi and later in Cyrenaica as Commissary of civil affairs at Derna and later as Director of political affairs at the headquarters of Bengasi.

He returned to Tripolitania and was later assigned to Somaliland where he served for several years as Director of Colonization. His next position was General Secretary of the colonial administration of Cyrenaica.

Promoted to the position of Director General, he returned to the Colonial Ministry as the head of East African affairs. He has represented Italy in several international conferences with France and England.

He is regarded as a keen and cultivated writer. He has written mostly on African problems for the Italian and foreign reviews.

In well informed circles, Astuto is regarded as the ablest man in the Colonial Office. He is married to an American, speaks English perfectly and is very kindly disposed towards Anglo-Saxons. The Italians expect (or perhaps it is merely a hope) that Abyssinia will eventually disintegrate and lose its status as an independent country. They are anxious to have a finger in the pie should this happen which is just another reason for sending their best man to Eritrea.

The impression in Rome is that Corrado Zoli, the man Astuto is succeeding as Governor of Eritrea, was dismissed. The press merely mentioned without comment the fact that he had resigned. While considered an able man, he was never popular with the Government. Some attribute his unpopularity to the fact that prior to the World War he served for a while as an officer in the French Foreign Legion.

James L. Collins,
Major, General Staff, U.S.A.,
Military Attaché.

865A.00 I M - D REPORTS

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